



# III CORPS AND FORT HOOD NEWS RELEASE

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## **III Corps Units Providing Support to Hurricane Katrina Rescue Effort**

FORT HOOD – Approximately 2,000 Fort Hood soldiers, many recent veterans of the War in Iraq, are now in or on their way to Louisiana.

The soldiers will be attached to Joint Task Force-Katrina under the command of Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, and will assist federal, state and local governments in rescuing people and delivering supplies where needed.

The III Corps units now involved include an aviation task force composed of elements of 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Brigade, whose mission is to provide medical evacuation, transportation to victims of the hurricane, and assistance to crews repairing levies and flood walls. Together, the units are providing a mix of more than 30 UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters to the effort.

And today more than 1,500 soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Div.'s 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team – or “Black Jack Brigade” – began preparing to depart Fort Hood for Louisiana to assist with food distribution and transportation for displaced persons.

An additional 300 soldiers from the 13<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Command, or COSCOM, are preparing to deploy as well. This Logistics Task Force will provide a variety of capabilities, including preventative medicine, water purification, bulk fuel, debris clearing, supply and issue of needed materials, and movement control for ground transportation moving in the area.

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Unit commanders at Fort Hood said that they did not expect the rescue effort to affect the availability of 4ID units for their upcoming deployment to Iraq this fall, nor the recovery and training of 1CD units who returned from Iraq this past spring.

The support is being provided in response to requests from Federal Emergency Management Agency officials in the area and approved by the Defense Department. Requests are coordinated by the U.S. Northern Command before being passed on to JTF-Katrina for execution. Lt. Gen. Honore normally commands the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Army in Georgia.

The President has previously outlined the mission of the military and other agencies participating in the relief effort: "Our first priority is to save lives. Our second priority is to sustain lives by ensuring adequate food, water, shelter and medical supplies for survivors and dislocated citizens. Our third priority is executing a comprehensive recovery effort," President Bush said.